

Message Text

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EXDIS - HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR MAY NATO NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
-- MEETING

1. IN PREPARING FOR PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE AT MAY LONDON
SESSION OF NAC, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT THE ALLIES
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LEAVE THE MEETING REASSURED OF OUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT
TO THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE, UNDERSTANDING
OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND
OTHER FOREIGN POLICY AREAS AND CERTAIN OF OUR DETERMINA-
TION TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THEM ON MAJOR CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS
TO OUR COLLECTIVE DEFENSE. WE ALSO HAVE IN MIND SEVERAL
.ROPOSALS THAT WOULD ENHANCE POLITICAL AND MILITARY

EFFECTIVENESS OF ALLIANCE, WITHOUT BEING SO AMBITIOUS AS TO ALARM ALLIES. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING SOME OF THESE POINTS WITH FRG, UK, CANADIAN, FRENCH AND ITALIAN EMBASSIES HERE TO ELICIT THEIR GOVERNMENTS' VIEWS, AND EMBASSIES MAY RECEIVE REACTIONS OR QUESTIONS, WHICH SHOULD BE REPORTED. USNATO SHOULD ALSO APPROACH LUNS TO DISCUSS FOLLOWING SPECIFIC INITIAL IDEAS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, SO THAT HE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THEM WHEN HE ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON, APRIL 11. IN ALL ABOVE CONTACTS, WE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THE TENTATIVE NATURE OF OUR THINKING.

2. WE WOULD PLEDGE US SUPPORT FOR EXISTING NATO STRATEGY, AND OUTLINE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF FORCE IMPROVEMENTS TO ADAPT NATO FORCES TO THE CHANGING REQUIREMENTS OF THE 1980'S, AND, ESPECIALLY, NEED FOR IMPROVED ALLIANCE COOPERATION ACROSS THE BOARD. WE WOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT US WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE LARGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS TASK, INCLUDING MAINTENANCE OF THE FULL SPECTRUM OF CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR FORCES, AND NOTE THAT WE EXPECT ALLIES TO DO THEIR SHARE. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS, MEETING IN DPC, CARRY FORWARD STUDY OF NEEDED DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS, WHOSE RESULTS WOULD BE REPORTED TO MAY 1978 NATO MEETING, WHICH MIGHT BE HELD AT SUMMIT, IF RESULTS WARRANTED. WE MIGHT SUGGEST SOME AREAS ON WHICH PROGRAM MIGHT FOCUS, SUCH AS INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY, IMPROVING AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE CAPABILITY, ENHANCING READINESS AND BUILDING UP WAR STOCKS. (FYI: INITIATIVES CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THESE DEFENSE AREAS WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED BY DEFENSE MINISTERS, MEETING IN THE DPC, MAY 17-18, RATHER THAN BY THE NAC. IF INITIAL SOUNDINGS INDICATE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PROCEED, WE WOULD PLAN TO DEVELOP IDEAS MORE FULLY FOR THE DPC. END FYI.)

3. WE WOULD ALSO SEEK IMPROVEMENTS IN NATO DEFENSE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS. WE BELIEVE THE ABOVE PROGRAM SHOULD INCLUDE A SPECIFIC EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN NATO FORCE PLANNING PROCESS SO THAT THE OVERALL PROGRAM WILL HAVE THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE CHANCE OF BEING EFFECTIVELY CARRIED OUT. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT NOW HAVE ANY SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES TO SUGGEST, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN ADDITION TO ANY IN-HOUSE REVIEW

FOR SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS TO FORM A GROUP OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS TO WORK WITH HIM IN SEEKING WAYS TO IMPROVE NATO DEFENSE MACHINERY SO THAT DECISIONS CAN BE TAKEN AND IMPLEMENTED

MORE RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY. RESULTS OF THIS STUDY COULD ALSO BE REPORTED TO MAY 1978 NATO MEETING. (FYI: REMEMBERING LUNS' STRONG RESISTANCE TO EARLIER PROPOSALS FOR REFORM OF NATO STRUCTURE AND SENSITIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF, WE WOULD NOT NOW WANT TO SUGGEST A WHOLESALE REORDERING OF BUREAUCRATIC AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES, WHICH MIGHT PRECLUDE HIS COOPERATION. AT SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE THE SUBJECT IS ESSENTIAL TO SERIOUS PROGRAM OF DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS AND WILL HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END FYI.)

4. WE WOULD INDICATE THAT THE US IS PREPARED TO JOIN CANADA AND THE EPG IN STUDYING HOW TO MANAGE DEVELOPMENT,

PROCUREMENT, STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT, ON AN ALLIANCE-WIDE BASIS, IN ORDER TO
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ELIMINATE PRESENT WASTE AND INTER-ALLIED FRICTIONS, AND ENHANCE THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF ALLIANCE FORCES. (FYI: WE ARE STILL EXAMINING POSSIBLE WAYS BY WHICH THIS STUDY MIGHT LEAD TO PROGRESS IN THIS AREA AND MAY HAVE SOME FURTHER THOUGHTS. END FYI.)

5. POLITICAL: WE WOULD PLEDGE FULL CONSULTATION ON WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING EAST-WEST ISSUES. WE MIGHT SUGGEST THAT, AS BASIS FOR IMPROVED CONSULTATIONS ON EAST-WEST ISSUES, ALLIANCE COULD UNDERTAKE AN ANALYSIS OF CURRENT TRENDS IN THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE, AND, AFTER CONCLUSION OF BELGRADE MEETINGS, OF IMPLICATIONS OF THESE TRENDS FOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND ROLE OF ALLIANCE IN THESE RELATIONS.

6. WE MIGHT ALSO SUGGEST AN ORGANIZATIONAL STEP TO IMPROVE NATO'S CAPACITY FOR CONSULTATION ON BROADER ASPECTS OF NATO-RELATED ISSUES; E.G., A SMALL STAFF OF HIGHLY RESPECTED AND RECOGNIZED EXPERTS ATTACHED TO THE OFFICE OF THE SYG. ITS SUCCESS WOULD OBVIOUSLY DEPEND ON QUALITY OF HANDFUL OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD BE RECRUITED TO FILL POSITIONS, AND ON THEIR ABILITY TO FUNCTION IN COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF NATO. INITIAL TASK OF THIS GROUP, DRAWING ON EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS AS NEEDED, MIGHT BE ABOVE EAST-WEST STUDY. WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES, AND BELIEVE NEW STUDY OF EAST-WEST TRENDS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED ON ITS MERITS, WHETHER OR NOT A NEW STAFF IS SET UP.

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